

Newman: I will fix transport

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CAMPBELL Newman has vowed to fix transport issues on the Sunshine Coast if he is elected as the Queensland Premier at the next election.

Speaking exclusively to the Journal after a visit to the Sunshine Coast last week to talk about carbon tax, Mr Newman said there would be a solution to the Coast's public transport issues and hinted at a busway initiative.

"I'm not going to jump to a particular solution in regards to rail or whatever but I'll say this - the thing that concerns me and the team is that Caloundra South puts tens of thousands of people in a very awkward location and we would be making sure that there was a public transport solution in place at the time people moved into their new homes," he said.

Mr Newman would not re-

veal what the LNP transport plans were or whether his party would develop CAMCOS (Caboolture to Maroochydore railway corridor).

He said Opposition Leader Jeff Seeney was currently working out an infrastructure plan for the state.

"The corridor could be used in a variety of different ways," he said.

"You could start with a busway or a bus priority arrangement that could ultimately be converted to light rail or on to heavy rail.

"We don't have the information that the Government has but I'm adamant if you're going to put 65,000 people in Caloundra South, it needs to be a proper reliable affordable high frequency public transport service connecting those people into other parts of the Sunshine Coast, particularly places like Sunshine Coast University Hospital and



IT'S MY PARTY: Campbell Newman with his LNP team on the Coast.

centres of economic activity."

Mr Newman said with the Urban Land Development Association planning a series of towns on behalf of the State Government, they would all need the transport plans to back them up.

"If that doesn't happen, the same way it doesn't happen for Caloundra South, people will have to buy extra motor vehicles, so they will always own a car, but you'll find a family will own at least two cars, if not three cars, and they will be on the roads. "Once they are on the roads, you won't get them to use

public transport easily in the future," he said.

Mr Newman would also not confirm if his party would complete the Sunshine Coast railway duplication project delayed by Labor.

"I can't release all my policies this afternoon," he said.

Mr Newman agreed skyrocketing public transport fares were also a problem.

"I agree with the premise that the fares here have gone through the roof," he said. "That's another reason people should look clearly at what the Labor Party does versus what they've said.

"We always have this rhet-

oric about 'we're going to want people to use public transport' and 'it's bad for people to use their cars', so they spent the past 20 years telling people that.

"They haven't built roads until the past four or five years, but they haven't put any money in public transport either to speak of in any significance.

"Then they've cranked up the fares but people haven't got the service."

And "CanDo" Campbell's solution?

"All will be revealed in the lead-up to the election," he said.

Youngsters learning to love our planet

AS Australian politicians continue to talk about climate change, the carbon tax, water and the environment, Queensland kids are taking action into their own hands.

Around 300 students will converge for two days on the Sunshine Coast for the 2011 Australian Post Queensland Kids Teaching Kids conference at Caloundra Events Centre.

Using drama, comedy, song, experiments and new media the students will teach each other about environmental issues.

While many schools across the region will participate, only three will produce presentations for the event.

Arron Wood, founder of the "Kids Teaching Kids" environmental education conferences and former Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year, said many children had experienced issues such as climate change first hand because of this year's extreme weather.

"They want to tackle environment issues and pollution," he said.

➔ **The event takes place on August 11 and 12 at the Event Centre, 20 Minchinton St, Caloundra**

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